

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
STRATEGY ADVISORY GROUP
18 November 2005**

Note of Meeting

Present:

Martin Tugwell	South East England Regional Assembly (Chairman)
David Payne	South East England Regional Assembly
John Pounder	South East England Regional Assembly
Nick Woolfenden	South East England Regional Assembly (part)
Dominick Veasey	South East England Regional Assembly (part)
Nicole Badham	South East England Regional Assembly
Chris Cousins	Oxfordshire County Council
Chris Swanwick	Wycombe District Council (POS)
Douglas Horner	CBI
Edward Dawson	RAISE
Eike Ndiweni-Muller	GOSE (for Colin Byrne)
Howard Davidson	Environment Agency (Chair NRCCAG)
Huw Jones	Buckinghamshire County Council
Ian Hepburn	SEFS (for Chris Corrigan)
Paul Hudson	SEEDA
Stuart Hylton	Joint Strategic Planning Unit
Tony Curtis	Basingstoke and Dean (POS) (Chair Cross-Cutting)
Tony Stevens	Horsham District Council (POS)
Trevor Gasson	Maidstone Borough Council

1. Apologies

Mike Gwilliam	South East England Regional Assembly
Lindsay Gardner	South East England Regional Assembly
Alison Quant	Hampshire County Council
Alistair Robson	East Sussex County Council (Chair EAG)
Chris Corrigan	SEFS
Colin Byrne	GOSE
David Hackforth	Milton Keynes Council
John Kilford	West Sussex County Council (Chair SEERAWP)
Leigh Herington	Kent County Council (Chair HAG)
Mike Gill	GOSE
Peter Mann	Oxfordshire County Council (Chair TAG)
Steve Thwaites	Waverley Borough Council (POS)

No apologies received from Catherine Johnstone (RAISE) and Pete Raine (Kent County Council, Chair SERTAB).

2. Notes of Meeting on 27 June 2005 /Matters Arising

Maidstone is a Borough, not a District Council

Prioritisation Methodology and Regional Funding Allocations

Each region has been asked to provide Government with advice on funding priorities until 2016. Funding allocations for transport, housing and economic development have been identified by the Government. The initial advice on priorities is being developed through the RTB, RHB and by SEEDA and was discussed at the Assembly's Plenary meeting on 16 November.

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment at a workshop on 16 December and via the website. The trial report will be signed off by the Executive Committee prior to submission to Government at the end of January.

Martin Tugwell encouraged members to provide feedback on the draft papers.

Action: All

3. South East Plan

Martin Tugwell updated the Group on the timetable for the Plan. The deadline for submission of sub-regional policies by the sub-regional groups is Friday, 9 December. There will then be a members workshop on 13 January before the proposals are considered at RPC on 1 February, followed by the Plenary on 1 March. Submission of the full Plan for Government approval will be in March 2006 and, after the statutory consultation period, will be followed by an EiP starting in November.

- **Strategic Gaps – Draft Policy**

Douglas Horner declared an interest in relation to this item.

Nick Woolfenden and Dominick Veasey joined the meeting for this discussion. Nick Woolfenden outlined the background work undertaken and the proposed policy approach. Nick Woolfenden went on to explain that the report and proposed policy approach had been discussed at the last Cross-Cutting Group meeting and comments made were incorporated in the new paper before the Group.

Following a wide ranging discussion, support was given to the broad approach proposed. However, the Assembly agreed that further work needed to be undertaken in order to ensure consistency across the region on how to handle existing gaps and guidance.

4. Implementation Plan

Martin Tugwell informed the Group that a paper will be discussed at RPC on 7 December to give members the opportunity to discuss this item before their February meeting. The report will be made available to members of this Group.

Action: Nicole Badham

The contextual part of the Implementation Plan needs revising to incorporate a number of changes that have occurred on infrastructure and the financial framework. More importantly, the relation between the Implementation Plan and the Monitoring Framework needs to be brought out more.

Howard Davidson expressed concern that environmental mechanisms were not as clear as for example the ones on transport and housing and suggested that a separate group should look at these. David Payne informed him that a special group might not be needed due to the Assembly's continued work with the region's water companies and the EA. The IRF will also inform on any environmental matters.

5. Monitoring Framework

John Pounder advised that monitoring is now a statutory requirement and critical to the delivery of the South East Plan. The newly set up Monitoring Advisory Group, chaired by Graham Ashworth of New Forest District Council, has already produced first thoughts on how to strengthen the report. This looks at ways to improve the Regional Monitoring Report by making it simpler and more readable. The evolving RMR will be split into four parts:

- A contextual "State of the region" report, to be reviewed every two years
- Outputs of the Plan, to be reviewed annually
- Processes and implementation, to be reviewed annually
- An action Plan

Some members felt that splitting the document into several pieces and different review timetables could make it more difficult to keep track of. Simplifying the report however was welcomed and the suggestion of a 'traffic light system' to highlight progress has already been taken on board. Douglas Horner emphasised the importance of reporting on outcomes as well as outputs.

6. Update on Housing Distribution Task Group

David Payne provided an update on the Group's progress. At the last meeting, the Group discussed DTZ's draft report, which highlights some inconsistencies between approaches in the sub-regions. The Group agreed that this needed to be brought out more clearly where appropriate and will provide the consultants with comments by 16 December. The report will be finalised at the Group's meeting on 10 January.

7. Sub-Regional Strategies

A meeting took place on 13 October with lead officers of the sub-regions to discuss progress on the strategies. No problems were raised at this meeting.

8. Any Other Business

Martin Tugwell advised this was Chris Swanwick's last StAG meeting as he is leaving Wycombe District Council. Martin wanted to take the opportunity to thank Chris for his input and time over the past years. The Group echoed this.

9. Date of next meetings

- 9 January at 10.30am, The MWB Business Exchange, Guildford
- 9 February at 10.30am, The MWB Business Exchange, Guildford
- 6 April at 10.30am, The MWB Business Exchange, Guildford